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# The Popularity of God

Wyatt Sawyer

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THE POPULARITY OF GOD

## Psalms 117

INT:

Title seems out of character to some. Why? Idea always taken for granted. Sometimes based on blind faith.

**Now it is different!** Mr. Thomas J. J. Altizer recently proclaimed, "God Is Dead!" **SHAKES** our complacency!!!!

**CONTRAST OUR IDEAS ABOUT GOD:** 1951 and 1966.

1951 Journalism & The Church course at Texas A. & M. (Korea!) Main idea: "God is the number one headline today!"

1966 God is dead--because He is no longer needed nor relevant -- nor wanted! (ABS - Secularism.)

**FACTS:** God has not always been popular with everyone nor will He ever be with some men - mainly sinners!

**STUDY:** History of God's popularity.

I. THREE STATEMENTS THAT HELP POINT OUT PRESENT CONDITIONS.

- A. "You have laughed God out of your schools, out of your books, and out of your life, but you CANNOT laugh Him out of your DEATH." ...**Dagobert Runes.**
- B. "Here in our land and in other lands, many have been drifting toward a religion which says much about rights but little about duties; a religion which thinks only about humanity and little about God; which lays great stress on service but little stress on faith; which puts all the emphasis on man and his power and very little about God and His power." **Wm. T. Manning.**
- C. ...**A. P. Gouthey:** "All purely human ideas of God are necessarily imperfect. Our ideas are qualified and limited by what we have seen and known. He is the way of life that we are created to live. With Him life has meaning; without Him men exist in a meaningless discord." **Explains our current discord. No God!**

**OBSERVATION:** In a prosperous and wealthy culture man does not feel the need of God and therefore will not give to Him his just dues. The history of prosperous people!

II. BIBLE EXAMPLES OF GOD'S UNPOPULARITY.

- A. Cain fell out with God. Gen. 4:3-13. Unpop. with murders
- B. Noah's generation. Gen. 6:5-7. Unpopular with reprobates
- C. Israel at Pi-ha-hiroth. Ex. 14:8-12. Unpop. fearful.
- D. Elijah thought he was only faithful one left. I K. 19:10
- E. God and Christ were illegal in Roman Empire until the days of Constantine. A. D. 319. **Nothing new!** *Paganism!*

III. BIBLE EXAMPLES OF GOD'S POPULARITY.

- BC 1491 A. Popular with Israel after Red Sea crossing. *x Sing Song* Ex. 14:30-15:2
- 906 B. Popular after victory over Baal. I Kings 18:39. 2.
- 1427 C. Pop. in Joshua's day. Joshua 24:14-17.

W# 3-27-66

3-28-66

THE POPULARITY OF GOD

Psalm 117

INV.

Before our Invitation Song we want to meditate and sing further about the Greatness of our God. SONG: HOW GREAT THOU ART.

Challenge: Choose you this day whom you will serve. Invite you to B-R-C-B.

Ill. Dr. John A. Paton - missionary to New Hebrides - translating "John" King on word "Believe!" No native equivalent. yet needed 90 times.

R-P

One day native came in tired & weary. Sat in one chair & put feet in another. Asked what he was doing he used a word meaning "I am resting my whole weight upon." Used!

John 3:16 and John 1:12 [Receiving]

John 20:30-31.

Knl. I. P. 252